

This notice is to advise you of important changes that will impact the Point-of-Sale (POS) system used for processing pharmacy claims for the TennCare Program. Changes are being made to provide better oversight and monitoring of possible drug interactions, over-utilization by enrollees, and attempting to curtail fraud and abuse.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE CHANGES DO NOT AFFECT GRIER OBLIGATIONS.

- YOU MUST CONTINUE TO GIVE A THREE DAY SUPPLY, IF APPROPRIATE.
- YOU MUST CONTINUE TO USE THE DRUGSTORE NOTICE FORM

Effective 3/11/05, the Therapeutic Duplication edit and the Drug Dosage edit have been changed to a pharmacy soft message only. At this time the current hard edits for Step Therapy and Dose Optimization are still in effect. **Grier Obligations do apply to these edits.**

IMPORTANT SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

Below is the implementation schedule for hard edits related to Therapeutic Duplication within the specified drug classes:

Phase I – March 29, 2005*	Phase II – April 12, 2005*	Phase III – April 26, 2005*
Narcotics	Alpha Blockers	Antidepressants
Antihistamines	Beta Blockers	Antipsychotics
NSAIDS	Bile Salt Sequestrants	Leukotrienes
COX-2s	Calcium Channel Blockers	Quinolones
	ACE Inhibitors	Skeletal Muscle Relaxants
	ARBs	Benzodiazepines
	Lipotropics	Gastric Acid Reducers

***Dates are subject to change**

Additionally, on **March 29, 2005** the hard edit for **Drug Dosage** will be implemented. This edit limits the use of excessive doses of medications as defined by greater than 200% over the maximum recommended dose per the First DataBank™ Drug Clinical Modules.

For questions related to these edits, call First Health Services Clinical Call Center at 866-434-5524.

For a listing and schedule of the Step Therapy Edits (Provider Authorization Criteria), please [click here](#).